

Environmental Public Health Tracking in Maine

Our mandate

- “Establish a planning consortium consisting of technical experts, community members and other key stakeholders who can provide substantive recommendations on planning and implementing a coordinated and integrated environmental public health tracking (surveillance) network.”

Maine Environmental Public Health Tracking

Working Effectively With Stake Holders

Building on What was There

Andrew Smith, S.M., Sc.D.

State Toxicologist & Director, Environmental Health Unit

Bureau of Health

Maine Department of Human Services

Other Potential Roles for the Consortium

- Identifying specific needs and concerns of governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders
- Identifying need for additional legislative or regulatory authority to collect new data or share data
- Identifying priority environmental public health indicators for Maine and priority data systems that should be enhanced
- Identifying potential ways to partner & collaborate

Who is on Maine's Planning Consortium

- Health Care Related Organizations (5)
- Public Health Organizations (5)
- State Agencies (5)
- Academic Researchers (3)
- Environmental & Health Advocacy Groups (6)
- Business (2)

Agenda for 1st Consortium Meeting

June 11, 2003

- Developed common understanding origins of EPHT
- Developed common understanding of requirements of CDC CAA
- Illustrated potential examples of EPHT systems
- Discussed role of Planning Consortium in break-out sessions

Agenda for 2nd Consortium Meeting

November 4, 2003

...using facilitated sessions -

- Identified “ideal” attributes of EPHT System
- Identified attributes for prioritizing EPH Indicators
- Identified potential data access and data sharing issues
- Surveyed knowledge and baseline priorities for EPH Indicators

Priority Attributes for Indicators

According to Planning Consortium, highest priority should be given to indicators:

- Where there are existing data
- Associated with more common events
- That have relevancy to interventions
- That are of concern to Maine people
- That can “test” the robustness of the system
 - Where linkage between environment and health is clear
- Are associated with health effects of short latency

Environmental Public Health Indicators Ranked Highest by Planning Consortium

- Criteria air pollutants
- Air toxics
- Motor vehicle emissions
- Environmental tobacco smoke
- Indoor Air - Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Indoor Air - Hazards in schools
- Childhood lead poisoning
- Pesticide use and child poisoning
- Illnesses with suspected or confirmed environmental contribution
- Contaminants in ambient water / attributable outbreaks of illness
- Contaminants in drinking water / attributable outbreaks of illness
- Contaminants in shellfish and sport & commercial fish

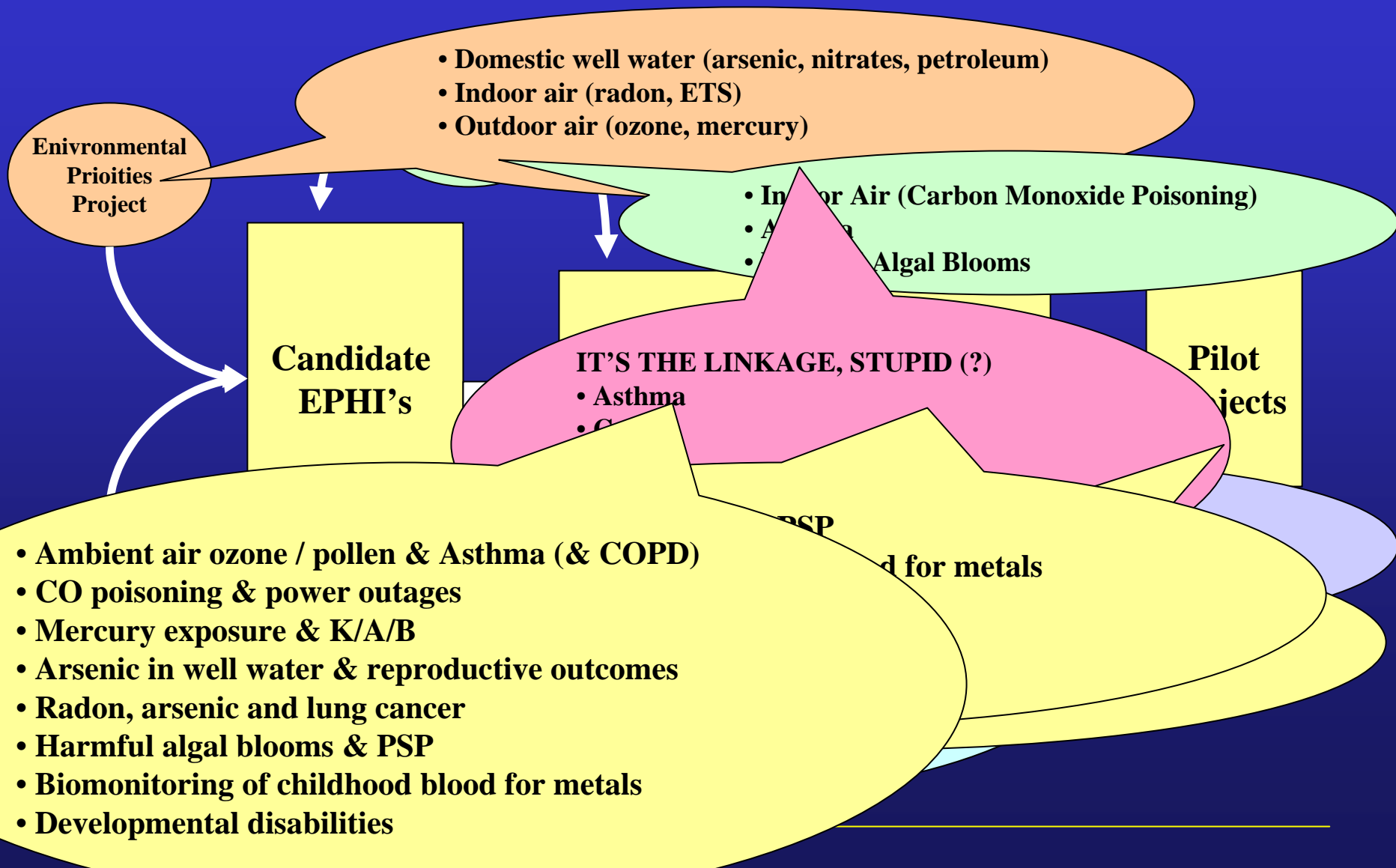
BUT, only about a third of consortium members completed surveywhy?

Agenda for 3rd Consortium Meeting

March 3, 2004

- Discussed role of surveillance versus research
- Presented three proposed priority EPH Indicators for feasibility evaluations and pilot projects
- Obtained feedback and advice on 3 proposed priority EPH Indicators using facilitated sessions

Considerations in Identifying Priority EPHIs



Agenda for 4th Consortium Meeting

June 2, 2004

New format – formal presentations on other potential EPHIs to inform consortium

- Learn about
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - CHILDLINK
 - Arsenic and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes
 - Laboratory Components in Biomonitoring
 - School based health survey
 - Maine Child Health Survey
- Learn about EPHT in Massachusetts (B state)

Agenda for 5th Consortium Meeting

October 8, 2004

- Learn about
 - Pesticide use and poisoning data
 - Radon hazard and health study data
 - Childhood cancer in Maine
- Updates on Maine pilot projects using Posters
- Learn about EPHT in New York (B state)

How is the Process Working

- Attendance of consortium meetings
 - 83%, 62%, 66%, 62%, 72%
- Evaluations to assess predetermined objectives
 - 54% strongly agree meetings met objectives
 - 39% agreed meetings met objectives
 - 6% neutral on meeting objectives
 - 1% disagreed

Lessons Learned

- Use what is out there!
- Let them talk! (we could do this better)
- Consortium worked well for developing collaborations
- Don't assume they understand what EPHT is about
- Define consortium's role and EPHT again and again and again ...